

READY LOOK FORWARD TOWN'S INCORPORATION

Business Men May Ask for Special
Act of Coming General
Assembly.

COUNTY SEAT MAY BE MOVED
Lot in Center of Hopewell Reserved
for Future Courthouse of Prince
George County—Present Govern-
ment Is Temporary.

In discussing the future of Hopewell, it is well to take into consideration the interest, financial, personal and political, which the people of Prince George County are manifesting in the powder city. Representative citizens of the county are on the ground, and a movement to take the county seat from Prince George Courthouse to Hopewell would not be unexpected within the next two or three years.

As a matter of fact, in anticipation of the removal of the courthouse to Hopewell, a public square has been reserved upon which the county buildings may be located. Prince George Courthouse is now far removed from the seat of activities in the county. It is not on a railroad, and it is eight miles from Petersburg and about the same distance from Hopewell.

Talk about incorporating the town of Hopewell is at present without any definite basis, so far as the leaders in the movement have made public. It is known that one element, headed by citizens of Prince George County, have urged the advisability of presenting a bill to Judge Jesse F. West, of the Circuit Court of Prince George, asking for the incorporation of a certain section of the town, excluding the Du Pont reservation.

FAVORS SPECIAL ACT
OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Another element favors a special act of the General Assembly incorporating the town and naming the first set of officers. In the event Judge West should refuse to grant the petition, both elements would appeal to the General Assembly to pass an act incorporating the town.

Hopewell's government at present is of a temporary nature. Governor Stuart, Judge West and the Du Pont officials have co-operated to a great extent in handling the situation. Judge West appointed Lawrence Perry, president of the Business Men's Association, and a man interested in many enterprises in and about Hopewell, as special police magistrate for the town. A force of fifteen policemen was also named.

The Du Pont company maintains its own police force, numbering more than 150 men, including a plain-clothes squad. The Du Pont police co-operate with the town force when the occasion demands. County Treasurer Temple, of Prince George, one of the best-known citizens of the county, has established an office at Hopewell. The greater part of the treasurer's business now comes from the powder city, and he is keeping in close touch with developments.

GREAT CITY HAS GROWN IN NIGHT

(Continued From First Page.)
and on the south by the Norfolk and Western Railway right of way, the town runs east and west, with City Point on the east and Petersburg eight miles to the west.

TOWN OF HOPEWELL

GREW IN A NIGHT
From the time it became known that the Du Ponts were planning a plant on a scale, almost unbelievable at that time—March and April of this year—Hopewell grew up in a night. The immediate vicinity was settled by a colony of English in 1719, later deserted, and for more than two centuries the ground now occupied by hundreds and hundreds of buildings was little more than a barren waste, except for those portions dotted by trees. It was really "in the woods."

The Du Pont people offered higher wages than had ever been paid in Virginia for skilled mechanics and ordinary laborers. They gave employment to all the construction men that came. Men with small capital from all sections of the country who wanted to erect hotels, restaurants and stores in the Hopewell section were forced to use temporary structures, hurriedly put together. Tents could be secured quicker than anything else, and at the time last spring there were more

than 1,000, perhaps 2,000, canvas shelters in congested sections and scattered about.

HOPEWELL NOW PASSING BEYOND THE TENT STAGE

Even now there are hundreds of tents in a certain section of the town, occupied by men and their families. But Hopewell long ago passed the tent stage for the major portion of its inhabitants. The Du Pont company has erected more than 1,000 cottages for its employees, who bring their families with them, and each of these is occupied, while the demand is increasing. As rapidly as cottages can be secured, the married men employed in the plant and others who have gone to Hopewell to cast their lot with its future, send for their families.

In the business section of Hopewell the signs of "rush-room" development, so pronounced during the first months of its existence as a live town, are disappearing with a rapidity that is striking. Substantial brick buildings of two, three and four stories are being erected on the principal streets, frame structures are being converted into something of a more permanent nature by the construction of fire-proof brick walls, the stores are carrying a more varied and better class of merchandise, and everything appears to be progressing, with the idea of making Hopewell "a real city."

TWO SCHOOLHOUSES ARE BEING ERECTED

Two schoolhouses, which will cost \$18,000 each, are being erected by the Du Pont company, one on the edge of Hopewell proper, in the western section of the town, and the other at City Point. These buildings will each have accommodations for 600 children, and will be of modern construction in every way. At the present time in the western district there are only 215 children of school age, but the company insisted that provision should be made for 600 pupils there as well as at City Point.

The cost of these school buildings will be repaid to the Du Ponts out of future tax levies, arrangements to that effect having been made with the Prince George County School Board. The school authorities did not have the funds for the buildings, and there was a demand for educational facilities, which the company officials realized must be met. The corporation wants to keep its employees satisfied. It wants the men to bring their families to Hopewell, and schools and churches are necessary to meet these important propositions.

Ministers of the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and Catholic churches have been doing a great work in Hopewell ever since its development began. Temporary chapels and tabernacles have been erected by each of the denominations to serve until more permanent structures could be gotten.

CHURCHES AND HOSPITALS ARE ALREADY ON GROUND

The Catholics have let the contract for a new church, which will cost \$35,000. Ground has been broken for the foundation and the work is going forward as rapidly as possible. Among the foreigners, as well as the Americans, are many Catholics, and several priests have been with the mission there for six months. The Baptists are raising funds to build a church of suitable proportions, as are also the Presbyterians and Methodists.

Professional men have come to Hopewell from all sections of Virginia and many from other States. There are approximately thirty lawyers who have offices there, and all have opened offices. When the pioneer lawyers arrived on the scene they had their offices under their hats, but now they appear able to have quarters with libraries and stenographers.

There are three hospitals in Hopewell. One was erected by the Du Pont

company, and is modern in all respects, with a full staff of physicians and nurses for the treatment and care of employees who may become ill or who are injured. Two institutions are maintained by individual physicians, and each is well equipped. Outside of the Du Pont reservation, there are eight or ten physicians, among whom is a woman. Drug stores are located on half a dozen of the principal corners, and several dentists have opened offices.

Along with Hopewell's period of transition from the wild and woolly West stage to a state where it bids fair to become the most valuable addition to Virginia's prosperity in many years, there have come public improvements which have added to the sanitary and health advantages of the community. The Du Pont company looked after the health of its employees from the start, but outside the reservation it was several months before it was realized that a sewer and water system was imperative. The Epps estate, which sold the bulk of the land to the Du Ponts and later subdivided the original "Hopewell section" into lots, has spent \$50,000 in building a water and sewer system in the congested district. The powder-plant company co-operated with the Epps estate in the construction of the system and furnished the greater part of the labor, in order that the health of the community would be protected.

The Du Pont residence sections have had water and sewer connections from the start, and the cottages have all modern conveniences. In the other districts are being similarly equipped, and nearly all real estate subdivisions are guaranteeing water and sewer systems.

WATER SUPPLY IS FROM ARTESIAN WELLS

The principal water supply is from artesian wells. The Du Pont Company having several of great depths, and others are scattered at convenient points. The plant also has a sewage disposal plant built on scientific lines, which may later be utilized for the entire town as well as the company property.

The construction of the water system has given Hopewell fire protection, in which it was sadly in need, and arrangements are now being made for the purchase of sufficient fire-fighting apparatus to cope with the situation in case of an outbreak. Two hose reels are already in use, and other equipment will be secured as rapidly as possible.

The Du Pont Company maintains a fire department and has hose reels and chemical apparatus stationed at strategic points, not only in the plant enclosure, but in its residence districts as well. This equipment is available for Hopewell in emergencies. With efforts being made to raze the temporary buildings in the congested sections and to erect in their places structures of brick, the danger of a serious conflagration will be reduced.

IMMENSE BUSINESS IS ALREADY BEING DONE

An idea of the magnitude of Hopewell and its business enterprises is difficult, considering its brief existence. So much territory is covered in the development of the town that the average visitor fails to grasp the extent to which this "powder city" has grown in so short a time.

The records of County Treasurer Temple, of Prince George, who has established an office in Hopewell and is now a voter there, show that approximately 500 licenses have been issued to various persons in Hopewell. The Business Men's Association, which has charge of the plans to make assessments for water and sewer connections, took a census a few days ago and found that there are 317 substantial enterprises located in the business section.

These include hotels, restaurants, stores and lodging-houses, in which several thousand foreigners live. Fruit stands and other minor undertakings are not counted in this total, nor are the stores and other busi-

ness houses in the City Point section taken into consideration.

ELECTRIC RAILWAY WILL BRING LIGHTS AND POWER

With the coming of the electric railway from Petersburg Hopewell will have an electric light and power system. A company has been formed for the purpose of establishing a modern distributing plant, or substation, in Hopewell, and the current will be purchased from the railway company. All buildings being erected are wired for electric lights and arrangements will be made for illuminating the streets.

The Du Pont company has its own electric light and power plant and supplies current for the cottages and streets in its residence sections, as well as within the plant enclosure.

There is no town in Virginia whose

streets present a livelier scene at all hours of the day and night. In the business section there are automobiles constantly coming or going. Men of all nationalities are to be seen. The stores are always busy and with money to spend the purchasers are not content with business houses on a small scale. They are willing to pay cash and that explains why Hopewell's stores are branching out so that its residents can buy what they want.

TWO BANKS ARE ALREADY ESTABLISHED

With two banks already established and a third to open as soon as its quarters are completed, the trade facilities provided are keeping pace with other improvements. Inquiries are constantly being received by the banks and other citizens regarding the opportunities for investment and the lo-

cation of of business enterprises or industries. The fame of Hopewell as an industrial center has spread to all parts of the United States and Canada. Its growth has been phenomenal, but there has been little to suggest a "boom" in the progress the town has made. The Du Pont company had its plant in the

course of construction before Hopewell started to grow. The enlargement of its operations has kept ahead of improvements in the town, and the millions invested by the powder company upon which it will get full turn from the war contracts alone appears that Hopewell is on the way to stay.

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